



The **MARION**
Manufacturing Company

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February 28, 2013

To: Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Dear Committee Members,

91 Percent of Manufacturers are struggling to find qualified workers:

According to a recent survey from One Voice, the joint federal-advocacy program of the Precision Metalforming Association and National Tooling and Machining Association, 91 percent of small to medium-sized metalworking manufacturers are struggling to find qualified employees. Forty-two percent say they have "severe" problems in this area, and 69 percent have job openings.

To address the challenge of recruiting qualified workers, 68 percent of manufacturing companies surveyed are working directly with community colleges and vocational institutions; 53 percent use industry training centers; and 48 percent work directly with high schools.

Looking ahead through the rest of 2013, 60 percent of those surveyed expect increased sales over 2012; 56 percent expect more than a 10 percent sales boost.

We cannot sustain this growth if we do not train our future workforce to meet the needs of area manufacturers. These needs vary by location and specialty. For example; in the Greater Waterbury area we are primarily metal stamping and wire forming. Not CNC type operations that you would find in the Northern part of the State.

We need to be able to communicate with NVCC and other schools what our needs are. The school needs this input to ensure they are training workers who are employable in their own community. The program will fail if this does not happen.

In closing: Please understand that we were told that if we supported the program in year one that the school would be able to make minor changes to address the needs of the surrounding area. We have held up our end of the bargain and supported the school. As a matter of Fact; the Smaller Manufacturers Association pledged \$25,000.00 over 5 years to help purchase items not covered by the school. We are here to help the school. Please allow us to do that.

Sincerely,

Douglas Johnson
Vice President of Operations
Secretary/Treasurer of the SMA